



## **NEWS FROM NOAA**

**NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION • US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

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### **NOAA VOLUNTEERS AND PARTNERS JOIN TO HELP THE CHESAPEAKE BAY** *Participants Enjoy Inaugural Virginia NOAA Restoration Day*

Charles City, Va. – Today, nearly 40 volunteers from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration joined staff from the Virginia Commonwealth University's Rice Center for Environmental Education, personnel from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services' Harrison Lake Fish Hatchery, and students from I.C. Norcom High School to restore a portion of the Chesapeake Bay shoreline.

"NOAA is pleased to be able to sponsor these annual activities," said Capt. Craig McLean, acting deputy director of NOAA's National Ocean Service. "NOAA Restoration Day provides a hands-on opportunity for our employees to demonstrate NOAA's mission to protect, restore and manage our coastal resources, and in particular the treasured resource of Chesapeake Bay."

Volunteers planted underwater grasses, at the VCU Rice Center sites adjoining the Chesapeake Bay, that were grown this spring in 16 tanks at NOAA offices around the region including I.C. Norcom High School in Portsmouth and Nauticus, and National Maritime Center, in Norfolk. Participants also cleared debris from the water's edge; removed invasive plant species; built and installed 20 nesting boxes for Prothonotary Warblers, wetland-loving birds; and tested water quality.

"We are proud to bring NOAA Restoration Day to Virginia. Employees from several NOAA offices in the region voluntarily donated their time to help with Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts," said Bill Hogarth, NOAA Fisheries Service Director. "This displays the commitment NOAA employees have towards stewardship and restoring the Bay and surrounding ecology."

This is the first Restoration Day to include the Virginia portion of the Chesapeake Bay. Restoration Days in Maryland have taken place since 2004. The restoration activities conducted through NOAA's, multi-program operated, Chesapeake Bay Office, are jointly undertaken by NOAA Fisheries Service and the National Ocean Service.

The NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office is in its second decade of providing science, service, and stewardship to advance NOAA's mission in the mid-Atlantic region through programs in fisheries, habitat, coastal observations, and education.

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NOAA Fisheries Service is dedicated to protecting and preserving our nation's living marine resources and their habitats through scientific research, management and enforcement. NOAA Fisheries Service provides effective stewardship of these resources for the benefit of the nation, supporting coastal communities that depend upon them, and helping to provide safe and healthy seafood to consumers and recreational opportunities for the American public.

NOAA's Ocean Service is dedicated to exploring, understanding, conserving and restoring the nation's coasts and oceans. It balances environmental protection with economic prosperity in fulfilling its mission of promoting safe navigation, supporting coastal communities, sustaining coastal habitats and mitigating coastal hazards.

NOAA, an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce, is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and providing environmental stewardship of the nation's coastal and marine resources. Through the emerging Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), NOAA is working with its federal partners, over 60 countries and the European Commission to develop a global network that is as integrated as the planet it observes, predicts and protects.

On the Web:

NOAA: <http://www.noaa.gov>

NOAA Fisheries: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov>

NOAA Ocean Service: <http://www.oceanservice.noaa.gov>

NOAA Restoration Day: <http://restorationday.noaa.gov>

NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office: <http://noaa.chesapeakebay.net>